

CLEAN COPY OF THE AMENDED AND NEWLY ADDED CLAIMS

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1. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter for routing an outgoing call issued by a telephone set, said adapter comprising:
 - a telephone line interface configured to be connected to a telephone line;
 - a telephone interface configured to be connected to the telephone set;
 - a packet network interface configured to be connected to a packet network;
 - a controller circuit interconnecting said telephone line interface, said telephone interface and said packet network interface; said controller circuit being so configured as to route said outgoing call to one of said telephone line and said packet network interfaces depending on at least one preestablished routing rule.
 2. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said packet network interface is a Local Area Network interface configured to be connected to said packet network via a Local Area Network.
 3. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said packet network interface is a Local Area Network interface configured to be connected to said packet network via a Local Area Network packet network gateway.
 4. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said controller circuit includes an embedded agent software controlling the routing of the outgoing call.

5. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that a) said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when a dialled telephone number is a local call and b) said outgoing call is routed to said packet network interface when the dialled telephone number is not a local call.

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6. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when no packet network address corresponding to a dialled telephone number exist.

7. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when a dialled telephone number is an emergency number.

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8. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said controller circuit includes a telephone number database of telephone numbers that may be reached via the packet network; said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that a) said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when a dialled telephone number is not present in said telephone number database and b) said outgoing call is routed to said packet network interface when the dialled telephone number is listed in said telephone number database.

9. (Amended) A telephone to packet adapter as recited in claim 1, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule is such that said outgoing call is routed to said telephone line interface when said packet network is inactive.

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19. (Amended) A method for routing a telephone call issued by a telephone set via a telephone to packet adapter provided with a telephone line interface, a telephone interface, a packet network interface and a controller circuit interconnecting the telephone line, telephone and packet network interfaces; said method comprising the steps of:

connecting a telephone line to the telephone line interface;

connecting the telephone set to the telephone interface;

connecting the adapter to a packet network via the packet network interface;

running an agent software for routing the telephone call to either the telephone line interface or the packet network interface depending on at least one preestablished routing rule.

20. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 19, wherein said packet network connecting step includes the substep of connecting a Local Area Network to the packet network interface.

21. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 19, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a local call routing rule; said local call routing rule dictates that the telephone interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is a local call.

5 22. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 19, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a long distance call routing rule; said long distance call routing rule dictates that the telephone interface is to be routed to the packet network interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is a long distance call.

Sub 26
23. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 19, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a default routing rule; said default routing rule dictates that the telephone interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when either a) a number dialled onto the telephone set has no corresponding packet network address or b) the
5 packet network is inactive.

24. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 19, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes an emergency call routing rule; said emergency call routing rule dictates that the telephone interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is an emergency number.

Sub 26
25. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 19, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a database determined routing rule; said database determined routing rule dictates that a) the telephone interface is routed to the packet network interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is present in a database of the
5 controller circuit; and b) the telephone interface is routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is not present in the database.

26. (Amended) A method for routing outgoing telephone calls to a packet network via a telephone to packet adapter provided with a telephone line interface, a telephone interface, a Local Area Network interface, a packet network interface and a controller circuit interconnecting the telephone line, telephone, packet network and Local Area Network interfaces; said method comprising the steps of:

connecting a telephone line to the telephone line interface;

connecting a telephone set to the telephone interface;

connecting a Local Area Network to the Local Area Network interface;

connecting a packet network interface to the packet network interface;

running an agent software for routing either a) the telephone interface to one of the telephone line interface and the packet network interface, or b) the Local Area Network interface to one of the telephone line interface and the packet network interface, depending on at least one preestablished routing rule.

27. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 26, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a local call routing rule; said local call routing rule dictates that one of the telephone interface and the Local Area Network interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is a local call.

28. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 26, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a long distance call routing rule; said long distance call routing rule dictates that one of the telephone interface and the Local Area Network interface is to be routed to the Local Area Network interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is a long distance call.

29. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 26, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a default routing rule; said default routing rule dictates that one of the telephone interface and the Local Area Network interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when either a) a number dialled onto the telephone set has no corresponding packet network address or b) the packet network is inactive.

30. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 26, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes an emergency call routing rule; said emergency call routing rule dictates that one of the telephone interface and the Local Area Network interface is to be routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is an emergency number.

31. (Amended) A routing method as recited in claim 26, wherein said at least one preestablished routing rule includes a database determined routing rule; said database determined routing rule dictates that a) one of the telephone interface and the Local Area Network interface is routed to the Local Area Network interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is present in a database of the controller circuit; and b) one of the telephone interface and the Local Area Network interface is routed to the telephone line interface when a number dialled onto the telephone set is not present in the database.

32. (New) A programmable telephone switch, comprising:
a telephone interface for connecting a telephone set;
a telephone line interface configured to be connected to a telephone line;
a packet network interface configured to be connected to a packet network; and
a controller circuit interconnecting said telephone line interface, said telephone interface and said packet network interface; said controller being so configured as to switch a telephone call issued by said telephone set through one of said telephone line and said packet network depending on at least one routing rule programmed in said controller circuit.